

Guidelines for Administration of the Optional 2-Dose Hepatitis B Schedule for Adolescents 11-15 Years of Age Using Merck's Recombivax HB[®]

Since September 1999, an optional 2-dose hepatitis B schedule of Merck's Recombivax HB[®] has been approved for vaccination of adolescents 11-15 years of age. It is administered in two 10 mcg doses with a minimum of 4 months between each dose.

Follow the guidelines below to ensure proper administration of the optional 2-dose hepatitis B series:

1. **Age at administration:** Both doses must be given between 11 and 15 years of age, with the 2nd dose given by the 16th birthday. If an adolescent started the 2-dose series between 11 and 15 years, but turned 16 before receiving the 2nd dose, he/she must finish the schedule with 2 more doses of the pediatric formulation (5 mcg per dose). If it is not clear which dosage was administered for the 1st dose, the series should be completed with 2 more doses of the pediatric formulation (5 mcg per dose).
2. **Formulation:** Only Merck's Recombivax HB[®] is licensed for the 2-dose schedule; GlaxoSmithKline's Engerix-B[®] is **not** approved for this schedule in adolescents.
3. **Dosage:** 10 mcg must be administered for each dose in the 2-dose series.
This schedule can be accomplished by using either:
 - 1 ml of the pediatric formulation (2 x 5.0 mcg/0.5ml); or
 - 1 ml of the adult formulation (1 x 10 mcg/1.0ml).
4. **Schedule:** There must be a 4-month minimum interval between doses 1 and 2. While there is no maximum interval between doses, both doses must be administered when the patient/student is between 11 and 15 years of age to be considered valid.

Clear and proper documentation is always needed. Because the optional 2-dose hepatitis B series requires a different formulation, dosage, and schedule than the traditional 3-dose hepatitis B series, proper documentation is especially important.

**See the reverse side for guidelines on documentation
and school immunization requirements.**

If you have any questions or need further information, please call the MIP at (617) 983-6800 or toll free at (888) 658-2850.

Guidelines for Documentation of the Optional 2-Dose Hepatitis B Schedule for Adolescents 11-15 Years of Age Using Merck's Recombivax HB®

The MIP has determined that the optional 2-dose hepatitis B schedule satisfies school immunization requirements, if properly documented. Proper documentation of the optional 2-dose hepatitis B series consists of the **correct formulation** for both doses, administered according to the **correct schedule**, as described below.

1. Write the **date** for each dose on the Vaccine Administration Record (VAR), and in the “Blue Book” or on the Certificate of Immunization.
2. Beside the date specify “**2-dose formulation**”. (“10 mcg Recombivax” or “10 mcg Merck” are also acceptable.)
3. Confirm the correct schedule was followed. There must be a **4-month minimum interval** between doses 1 and 2, and both doses must be administered when the patient/student is **between 11 and 15 years of age**.
4. On the third line for the series, we suggest you write: “**Both 2-dose formulation**”. (“Both 10 mcg Recombivax” or “Both 10 mcg Merck” are also acceptable.) This clarifies that a third dose is not needed.

Acceptable documentation for the optional 2-dose hepatitis B series:

Example 1

Vaccine		Date	Doctor or Nurse's Signature	Next Shot Due
Hepatitis B	1	2/14/01	2-dose formulation Family Health Center	
	2	6/21/01	2-dose formulation Family Health Center	
	3		Both 2-dose formulation	

Example 2

Vaccine		Date	Doctor or Nurse's Signature	Next Shot Due
Hepatitis B	1	2/14/01	10 mcg Recombivax Family Health Center	
	2	6/21/01	10 mcg Recombivax Family Health Center	
	3		Both 10 mcg Recombivax	

Example 3

Vaccine		Date	Doctor or Nurse's Signature	Next Shot Due
Hepatitis B	1	2/14/01	10 mcg Merck Family Health Center	
	2	6/21/01	10 mcg Merck Family Health Center	
	3		Both 10 mcg Merck	

See the reverse side for guidelines for administration.